

Chapter 1481

"I have a hunch that her relationship with her fiancé is quite delicate. Although her fiancé always picks her up and sends her to and from work, the relationship between the two doesn't look like that of an affectionate couple."

"Did you feel this way too? We've already been feeling it for a long time."

Elaine leaned against the frame of the door, listening to the gossip in the lounge.

What was more, the gossip was about her, so she lowered her gaze.

"Even outsiders can see through my relationship with Ian?"

"To be honest, I was quite surprised when Ian said he wanted to start a serious relationship with me.

I only accidentally got stabbed because of him, and he already wants to start a serious relationship with me"

She still could not adapt to this change up until this moment. It was not that she did not feel Ian's guilt for her.

At this time, at Synergy...

"Mr. Saldana, Ian has taken over the shares in Hewston successfully, and he went to the casino the night before."

Listening to his secretary's report, Juan put down the teacup and frowned.

"What did he do at the casino?"

"I heard from the employee of the casino that Ian went there to spend some money. He even offended a few people in the casino and brought your name up."

As Juan listened to the report, he snorted coldly.

"That brat is still so stubborn and immutable, and he's starting to use my name to cause trouble."

The secretary smiled and explained, "Even if he were to cause trouble, that's his problem to deal with. Besides, the more trouble he makes, the better it'll be for you."

Tan started to use Mr. Saldana's reputation to do as he liked as soon as he took over the shares of the company in Hewston. It's said that the person that sticks his head out the most is usually the one who gets executed first.

Thus, no matter how big the issue gets, it won't be linked back to Mr. Saldana at the end of the day.

The more arrogant, condescending, and stupid he is, the more he's dragging himself into the crosshairs, isn't he? So, no matter how deep the investigations go, Ian is the person who's in the deepest sh*t"

At that moment, someone knocked on the door.

Juan lifted his head.

“Come in.”

The man pushed open the door, walked up to Juan in a hurry, and leaned into his ear.

“Sir, something has gone wrong in Hewston.”

Juan’s expression dimmed instantly.

“What’s the problem?”

“I heard that Mr.Xavier’s son-in-law has gone to Hewston.I’m not sure what he did to win several of the directors in the senior management of Cloud Capital Inc.over, but I heard that you’ve been found.”

“What! ?”

Juan slammed the teacup on the table heavily and stood up.

“Edward Xavier’s son-in-law?”

“Y-Yes, our men found out that the man is indeed Mr.Xavier’s son-in-law.”

Juan looked distressed.

‘I have no connection with Beyond Tech, but Edward’s son-in-law went to Hewston to investigate me.What does this mean?’

“Hurry up and find out who Edward Xavier’s son-in- law is!”

As soon as the employee left, a bodyguard hurried in.

“Mr.Saldana!”

Juan sounded extremely impatient.

“What’s the matter?”

“Y-Young Master Marco has been taken away from the psychiatric hospital.”

One sentence was all it took to freeze Juan in place.

His eyes turned bloodshot, and he smashed the teacup exasperatedly, “You f*ckers! You’re all useless pieces of trash! You let someone take him away!?! Hurry up and check it for me!”

Meanwhile, in Hewston...

Ian arrived at the hotel and came to Marco’s room, and one of his men opened the door for him.

“Ian, bro.”

Ian looked at Marco, who was sitting on the couch in a trance, and walked over.

“Marco.”

Marco stared at him dully.

“Who...Who are you?”

"I'm your younger brother."

"Younger brother?"

"Yes, daddy has asked me to pick you up from the hospital and bring you out."

Ian smiled.

Marco was only two years older than Ian.

He only looked a little slow and listless because of his mental condition.

He could communicate normally with others, especially when he was not in a frenzy.

Chapter 1482

"Where did daddy ask you to take me to?"

"Something happened to daddy."

Ian lowered his gaze and explained, "He needs some money and told me that his money is in your bank account. Is that right?"

Marco hesitated.

"But daddy told me that I should never hand this card to anyone."

"But daddy didn't say that you can't give it to your younger brother, right?"

Marco indeed fell for it.

It was mainly because of the fact that although Marco had a mental illness, he remembered that he had a younger brother.

It was just that he could not remember his name. He nodded absentmindedly.

"Then how can I help daddy?"

Ian said, "Give me the card, and I'll get someone to bring you to your mommy. You'll be very safe when you're with your mommy."

Marco wanted to see his mother, so he gave Ian the bank card he had brought along with him.

Ian took the card from him, raised his hand, and patted him on the shoulder.

"Let's go. I'll take you to meet the person that you want to meet."

Marco nodded.

Ian asked someone to send Marco to Mrs. Saldana's side. As soon as Marco left the room, the man standing next to him was puzzled.

"You've already gotten your hand on the card. Shouldn't we send him back to the hospital?"

Ian took a glimpse at the bank card in his hand and explained indifferently, "Mr.Saldana kept all the money that he's stolen over the years in Marco's account.

Marco isn't subject to legal sanctions because of his mental illness.

However, he'll definitely defend his father when he's sober.

"Mrs.Saldana loves her son, but she doesn't know that Mr.Saldana has transferred the money to his son in order to use his son's identity as a cover.So, if Marco were to have to go to court, Mrs.Saldana would probably vouch for Juan for her son's sake."

The man looked at him.

"As expected of you, bro, you even thought of this."

'Although Mrs.Saldana has divorced Father, she chose not to make it public in order not to stimulate her son.

Not to mention that the two still raise the son, who has a mental illness, together.

'Sending Marco back to the hospital is equivalent to giving Father another chance.He's most probably been informed that Marco has been taken away.

'So if Marco were to be sent back, Father would surely find Marco and encourage him to vouch for him.

Marco cares about his father and would disclose everything that happened today, which would be very detrimental to me.

'And Mrs.Saldana didn't know anything, so she'll definitely vouch for Father for the sake of her son.

Thus, I have to come up with a Plan B just in case.

'Sending Marco to Mrs.Saldana and then telling her that Father has transferred all the money that he's stolen over the years into her son's bank account and that he's planning to use her son as a cover without her knowing.

Then the outcome of these actions will surely be different.

'As far as I know, Mrs.Saldana cares more about Marco than Father does.Using his own flesh and blood to cover himself should have already crossed Mrs.Saldana's bottom line"

Everything did turn out as Ian had foreseen.

Mrs.Saldana was infuriated when she learned about her ex -husband's doings and called him immediately.

Juan was on his way to Hewston when he received a call from Mrs.Saldana.He learned something from her, and his face turned gloomy.

"What do you mean?"

“You’re actually shameless enough to ask me what I mean!? Juan Saldana, you’re such a ruthless man that you’d even take advantage of our son.If it weren’t for your illegitimate son who sent someone to tell me about it, I would still be kept in the dark.”

Mrs.Saldana smiled sarcastically and mocked him.

“You’re such a sh*t-sack.Back then, the second you learned that Marc is a mentally-ill child, you immediately got together with that b*tch, Eunice Lowry, behind my back, and gave birth to that child.

“You didn’t expect to be schemed by your own illegitimate child, did you? Let me tell you, Juan Saldana, there’s no way that I’m letting this slide! Just wait for the lawsuit!”

She hung up the call.

Juan was stunned.

“The person who did all this turns out to be Ian! ?”

Chapter 1483

At this time, Juan received news that his men had found Edward Xavier’s son-in-law.He was none other than his illegitimate son, [an Saldana.

Ian and Edward Xavier’s daughter had gotten engaged not long ago, and they had not made the news public.

Juan sat stiffly in the back seat as his face paled.

Meanwhile, Ian submitted the evidence of Juan’s embezzlement and tax evasion to the ministry.

Marco’s bank account was set up abroad, and the person in the ministry notified the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to contact the country where the bank was located, and Juan was soon restricted from leaving the country.

After getting everything done, Ian traveled back to Bassburgh by plane and arranged not to run into his father while he arrived.

The cafe’s manager came to pick him up at the airport, and Ian asked him to pull over when they passed by a flower shop.

Ian bought a bouquet of cornflowers.

When he returned to the car, the shop manager adjusted the rearview mirror to look at him.

“Is it for Ms.Xavier?”

He did not say anything and seemed to be thinking about something.

The cafe manager grasped the steering wheel and drove forward.

While they were on their way back, the manager chatted with Ian, “I told you, something must have gone wrong the moment you chose to help her, but I didn’t expect you two to really get together.

“Sure enough, those couples who meet each other very early on in their lives mostly won’t be able to stay together, and those who meet late might’ve missed the chance to start a relationship with each other. So, instead of looking for a profound relationship, falling in love at the right time is even more important.”

Ian frowned, raised his gaze, and glared at him.

“Do you plan to change your career path?”

The store manager was stunned for a moment.

“Then what should I do next?”

He laughed.

“Relationship mediators and consultants suit you quite well. Do you want me to make some arrangements for you?”

The store manager pouted.

He had finally understood what Ian was trying to convey and whispered, “All you’re saying is that you wish to fire me, only because I let a few words escape my mouth.”

Ian pursed his lips and smiled but said nothing.

When the car arrived at the entrance of J Tech Inc., Ian lowered the car window just in time to see Elaine and another female subordinate walking out of the company.

The female subordinate was saying something to her.

Elaine was the technical director of J Tech Inc., but she did not put on an arrogant look and lowered her head to listen to her.

She maintained the position until she inadvertently saw a familiar car. She was startled.

The female subordinate also discovered the car and smiled.

“Ms. Xavier, since your fiancé has come to pick you up, I shall go home first.”

After the female subordinate left, Elaine walked toward the car, and the café manager sitting in the car greeted her, “Nice to see you, Ms. Xavier.”

Elaine smiled, nodded, and then stopped outside of Ian’s door.

“You’ve completed all the tasks at hand so soon?”

“I came back as soon as I was done.”

Ian smiled and moved over to the other side of the car.

Elaine opened the door and got into the car.

She then saw the bouquet of blue cornflowers and was startled.

“These flowers...”

Ian handed her the bouquet.

"I bought it while I was on my way here. I think this flower suits you very much."

Elaine was stunned for a few seconds, grabbed the bouquet from him, held it in her arms, and smiled all of a sudden.

"I like it very much, thank you."

Although it was not some precious gem, necklace, or jewelry, but just a bouquet of cornflowers, she was delighted. She then thought of something.

"Have things gone well in Hewston?"

He responded with a light hum.

"Everything went well."

The store manager laughed while driving the car and interjected, "Mr. Ian was there to supervise every move. How could it not go well? Mr. Saldana is probably exasperated now."

Caressing the petals of the flowers in her arms, Elaine asked, "Will he retaliate against you for revenge?"

Before Ian could answer, the cafe manager looked in the rearview mirror and laughed.

"Ms. Xavier, are you worried Mr. Ian will be targeted?"

She choked on her own words and took a glance at Ian cautiously.

"Isn't it normal to worry about this?"

She was trying to say that it was normal for her to worry about her fiancé.

Chapter 1484

Ian looked at her with a faint hint of contentment flashing across his eyes.

"Don't worry."

The two words sounded like some kind of magic spell, and Elaine's heart calmed down inexplicably after hearing them.

The higher-ups in the ministry started a strict investigation of Juan.

All of Juan's personal assets were frozen overnight.

And because he was restricted from leaving the country, even his original plan to go abroad was foiled.

Soon, Juan was placed under criminal detention for further investigation.

Ian went to the detention center to visit Juan.

After Juan was taken to the visitation room by the police, he no longer looked as complacent as he used to but looked a little downcast and unshaven.

Juan picked up the receiver and gnashed his teeth.

“Ian Saldana, society has taught you a lot, huh? How dare you betray me, you two-faced f*cker!?”

He pursed his lips and smirked.

“I’ve always been like this.”

Juan sneered and mocked him.

“Sure enough, the son I didn’t raise by my side is cold-blooded and ruthless to his father. I should have kept an eye on your mother and forced her to have an abortion back then. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have to come across you now, you f*cking scourge.”

When it came to his mother, Ian’s expression dimmed.

‘Back then, Mother gave birth to me secretly after learning that Father’s eldest son suffers from a mental illness only because she was trying to use my identity to dethrone Mrs.Saldana from the Saldanas so that she could take over the title.

‘As far as I’m concerned, Mother only had me as leverage to obtain wealth and status. All she did after Father abandoned her was blame me for being so useless”

“It’s a pity my mother didn’t let things slide.”

Ian gave a faint smile and said after a long while, “Father, it’s time for you to spend the rest of your life in peace and prison.”

Seeing the hint of shock that flashed across Juan’s eyes, Ian hung up the call, got up, and left.

No matter how Juan yelled at him, Ian pretended not to hear him and did not look back at all.

His driver came to pick him up when he left the detention center, and he received a call from Elaine as soon as he got into the car.

Elaine asked him, “Are you done?”

Ian chuckled.

“Yeah, it just ended.”

“My dad asked me to...get you to come home for dinner tonight. So, are you free tonight?”

He agreed, “Okay, I’ll go over tonight.”

When the call was over, the driver sneered and inquired, “Mr.Ian, was it Mrs.Saldana?”

People who knew him rarely addressed the woman around him as Mrs.Saldana because they knew the nature of his job.

Even if he was with a woman, she was most probably there because he needed her to complete his mission.

Moreover, Ian had always been very ruthless toward women, and he was also very cold-blooded. He used to hang around with the mafia boss in Asperia.

That man had always been a playboy, and the women around him changed once every few days.

He also liked to share his women with his gang members.

If anyone did not want to accept his gift, he would consider it disrespectful.

Once upon a time, the mafia boss had introduced a woman he had just found to Ian.

Nobody knew how many men the woman had slept with—their only clue was that her way of life looked extremely dissolute.

Ian had no feelings for that rambunctious woman, but he had to fake it.

Later on, that woman fell in love with Ian and was willing to be his spy. She reported everything that the boss did to him from time to time.

However, when the woman was caught red-handed and was left in a cage to be bitten to death by a Tibetan Mastiff, he remained unconcerned.

It was not that he was ruthless or cruel.

It was just that the mission was extremely dangerous.

A tad bit of carelessness would surely get him killed, and it might even expose the other spies lurking around.

After all, it was a mission that took everyone more than half a year of hard work, and no one wanted to fall short.

Ian responded with a calm hum.

The driver sighed.

“It’s not bad to find a woman you can marry safely. All the brothers we met in the squad either left or died. It’s time to stop when we find ourselves a suitable woman.

“Besides, to still be alive is a blessing to us.”

Chapter 1485

In the evening, when Ian arrived at the Xavier mansion, he stood outside the door until Elaine came to open the door.

She had just washed her hair, and there was a faint scent of shampoo, and her half-dried hair was loosely tied.

Her plain face made her look a little more innocent.

Not many women could maintain their fair complexion and smooth skin when they were without makeup.

“You’ve come, do come in.”

Elaine pulled him into the entryway and closed the door.

In order to entertain him, Jenna had already cooked up a storm in the kitchen and prepared a sumptuous dinner.

All there was left to do was to wait for him to come for dinner.

“It’s nice to see you, Mr.Xavier, Mrs.Xavier.”

He nodded slightly and sounded very humble and polite.

“Alright, go wash your hands and join us at the table.Everyone has been waiting for you.”

Jenna welcomed him with a grin and then said, “Elaine doesn’t know what you like to eat, so I only cooked some of our usual dishes.”

Ian took a glance at Elaine and gave a faint smile.

“It’s okay, I’m not a picky eater.”

Elaine felt very embarrassed.

She did not know Ian very well, so how would she know what he loved to eat? During dinner, Edward poured two glasses of wine.

“I used to drink it alone.I finally have someone to drink with now.”

Elaine frowned.

“Dad, he came here by car, and you’re asking him to drink.”

“What are you afraid of? Worse comes to worst, he can spend the night here.He’ll become part of the family sooner or later.What’s the problem?”

She choked on her own words, completely not expecting such a statement from her father.

Ian and Edward clinked glasses and drank the wine slowly.

Edward treated Ian like how a content father-in-law would treat his son-in-law.

“Elaine, whatever Ian wants to eat, you should fetch it for him.You mustn’t neglect our guests.”

Jenna sounded very enthusiastic.

“Ian, there’s no need to be this reserved when you’re here.Eat as much as you can.We have plenty of food.”

Ian smiled and nodded.

“Thank you, Mrs.Xavier.”

Edward said, “You don’t have to be so polite when talking to us.Just make yourself at home.”

Elaine ate dinner silently.

'He was the one who didn't agree with my marriage at first, but now, his attitude has changed so much'

After dinner, Edward asked Ian to play a game of chess with him in the study while Elaine watched her drama downstairs.

Jenna prepared a fruit platter, made tea, and asked Elaine to help bring it up.

Elaine went upstairs with a tray of tea and fruits and was about to knock on the door when she came to the study.

At that moment, she accidentally overheard their conversation.

"Ian, you haven't told Elaine about her condition, have you?"

Elaine's hand froze in midair, and she leaned forward and placed her ear against the door.

She did not understand.

What could not he tell her? Ian was silent for a while and only opened his mouth after a long time.

"I don't want her to worry too much." Edward sighed.

"But sooner or later, she'll find out that she's no longer fertile."

Elaine was astonished at the door. Her mind went blank in an instant.

'I'm no longer fertile? What does that mean?' Ian lowered his gaze.

"I know, but before that, I can show her the certificate of my vasectomy procedure."

Edward was shocked.

"You..."

"After all, I owe her that. She wouldn't have gotten hurt if she hadn't pushed me away."

The study was quiet for a moment, and Elaine standing outside the door did not even dare to breathe loudly.

She held the tray in her hands tightly.

All of a sudden, she recalled Lucy's emotions from the other day.

And the transformation in Ian's attitude.

'Ian wants to get into a serious relationship with me only because I pushed him away, got hurt, and I can't get pregnant ever again?'

'He does so because he thinks he's indebted to me?' She pursed her lips, turned around, and left. She went downstairs and placed the fruit platter and tea on the table.

Jenna could not help but wonder.

“Elaine, didn’t you go to the study to deliver the fruits and tea?”

“I didn’t see anyone. You can deliver it yourself,” she replied casually and walked out of the manor without looking back.

Chapter 1486

Jenna felt confused and brought the fruit platter and tea upstairs again.

When she saw Ian and Edward coming out of the study, she stopped on the spot and asked, “Have the both of you been in the study room all this while?” Ian nodded.

Edward stared at her.

“I was chatting with Ian in the study. What’s wrong?”

“I just asked Elaine to bring you a fruit platter and some tea, but she told me she didn’t see you two in the study...”

Edward’s expression changed instantly, and he exchanged gazes with Ian.

‘It seems that she’s heard”

On the other end of the mansion...

Elaine was sitting alone by the pond in the backyard.

Ian followed a servant to the backyard.

The servant said something to him and left, and Ian walked toward Elaine.

Elaine threw the pebble in her hand into the pond, and no ripple could be seen due to the darkness.

She heard footsteps, stopped what she was doing, but did not look back.

“I know what you want to say, but it doesn’t matter. I don’t care.”

Ian stopped behind her.

“You heard it all.”

“If I didn’t hear that, would you and my father continue to hide the truth from me?”

Elaine stood up slowly, turned around, and looked at him.

“Ian Saldana, you don’t owe me anything. Our marriage has always been one of convenience.”

Ian glanced at her and said nothing.

Elaine lowered her gaze.

“I did push you away and saved you, but I did so willingly. And don’t forget that you protected me too, didn’t you?” Ian pursed his lips.

"We're now even. We don't owe each other anything, so you don't have to blame yourself for this, let alone..."

Elaine lowered her head.

"You don't have to do so."

"What don't I have to do?"

She looked up at him.

"You don't have to make up for me." Ian frowned.

"Do you think I'm making up for you?"

"Aren't you?"

Elaine smiled.

"Just because I can no longer get pregnant, you plan to sacrifice your happiness to stay with me and compensate me? That's not necessary."

He approached her.

"I don't think so."

"Ian, we're different individuals."

"What's the difference that you see between us?"

She took a deep breath.

"I know it's not easy for you to get to where you are today. You need a genuine marriage more than I do. You need a complete family and a home, and these are things that I can't provide you with." You should know I have no confidence in marriage, and I've never thought about getting married.

Even if I can't have children in the future, it's still acceptable to me.

However, I don't want you to sacrifice your whole life just to compensate me.

"You've taken down Mr. Saldana, and we're only engaged at this moment. I'll even give up the shares that you offered me." Ian's cheeks bulged, and his eyes were fixed on her.

"So, are you saying you want to terminate the engagement?"

Elaine felt heavy and complicated deep down.

'I have to admit that I want to cancel the engagement. Perhaps I've been regretting my decision ever since we got engaged.

'I'm afraid that I'll fall for him during such a form of marriage as I'm too deeply immersed in this relationship. It's getting harder and harder to forget the memories I've accumulated throughout this period.

'If this were to continue, we would surely suffer in this relationship.

'I don't want him to make up for it, and I don't have the confidence that I'll really be able not to care about anything after marrying him. Not to mention that I might not even be able to conceive a child, so how can I provide him with a complete family?' After a long while, she replied calmly, 'Yes, let's terminate the engagement.'

Ian stopped just a stone's throw away from her.

"Then have you asked me what I think about us?"

She froze in place and looked up at him suspiciously.

Ian had his back to the light.

The shadow covered his facial features, so all Elaine saw at this moment was his silhouette, not his expression.

"What if I were to tell you that I'm serious?"

Elaine was stunned, and her gaze betrayed she was in a daze.

Chapter 1487

"Elaine Xavier, our feelings for each other can be cultivated. At least, what I just said was said with a sincere heart, and it has nothing to do with making up to you."

The evening breeze brushed against his collar, and the emotions that were overflowing from his eyes were blazing.

"If all I want is to make up to you, there are plenty more ways to make it happen. I don't have to go with this."

Elaine was stunned.

After a long time, she pursed her lips.

"Do you like me? Even if it's only a little." Ian looked down at her.

"At least I don't repel the feelings I have for you, nor do I hate them."

Her gaze shifted away from him, and she did not even utter a single word.

Ian lifted his hand and stroked her cheek while Elaine froze in place. Her heartbeat was getting more and more intense as her heart beat along. She lowered her gaze and did not dare to move a muscle.

His thick and rough palms brushed across her cheeks and rubbed against the corner of her lips. He approached her slowly, and Elaine's hands that were resting on both sides could not help but be tightly clenched.

Her eyelashes dropped and covered her eyes, and her labored breaths and undulating chest froze in time for a moment.

The moment he got close to her lips, he stopped abruptly and gave her a light peck on her forehead as if he cherished her more than anyone.

Elaine's heart skipped a beat. She opened her eyes and stared at him.

Ian pursed his lips and gave off a faint smile.

"You should go back and rest earlier."

Her ears were flushed, and she hurried past him and left the scene immediately.

Ian witnessed as she escaped him and laughed softly.

The next day, at Blackgold...

Quincy held onto a stack of documents, stood in front of the desk, and reported, "Mr. Goldman, Mr. Saldana's trial is over, and his sentencing has been published. He'll at least be imprisoned for 20 years, so he will be an old geezer who's in his 80s by the time he's released. He won't have the spirit to cause any more trouble."

Nolan narrowed his eyes.

"Isn't that rather quick for the sentencing to be fixed?"

"How can it not be quick? His ex-wife has completely fallen out with him because of Marco. She's been getting all her connections to facilitate and accelerate the procedures as much as they can."

Quincy sighed and continued after saying that.

"Now that I've mentioned the ex-wife, she's not someone to be trifled with. She'd do anything in her power to bring us down if she were to fall out with us."

Juan had transferred all his illicit money into his son's account behind his ex-wife's back, trying to use him as his cover-up.

After all, Marco had a mental illness, so who would track the money back to him? Juan had extended his arms toward his mentally ill son and got him implicated in his filthy business.

He had truly crossed the line this time around.

No wonder the ex-wife would retaliate against him so harshly after finding out about it.

Someone knocked on the door at this moment, and Nolan lifted his gaze.

"Come in."

Kevin walked into the office, nodded at Nolan, and smiled.

"Mr. Goldman."

Nolan's tapped on the desk rhythmically.

"It seems that the project of the delta of Hewston's Hydra Lake has been successfully secured."

"Thanks to you, Mr. Goldman, we've taken over half of the projects in Hewston's Hydra Lake.."

Nolan got up, walked to the couch, and sat down with him.

“Have you met Young Master Saldana?” Kevin was startled.

“Which Young Master Saldana are you talking about?”

Quincy answered, “He’s Mr.Edward Xavier’s son-in- law, Ian Saldana.”

Kevin was surprised.

“So, that’s the legendary Young Master Saldana?”

He had met Ian before this, but he did not know that Ian was Juan’s son.

“I thought Mr.Juan Saldana’s son i s mentally ill?”

Nolan responded lightly, “He’s Mr.Saldana’s illegitimate child.”

Kevin understood something.

“I see.”

Kevin had met with Ian before.

Using his title as Mr.Xavier’s son-in-law, Ian had gotten connected with the people in Hewston and had been inquiring about and investigating Juan everywhere.

Kevin was quite puzzled.

“That Mr.Saldana is quite capable.I wonder how he managed to convince the senior management of Cloud Capital Inc..”

Nolan chuckled.

“He works for the ministry, so he’s able to obtain information that others can’t get their hands on.Moreover, Cloud Capital Inc.has a history with the Synergy Group, but Cloud Capital didn’t dare to go against Synergy all this while.It’s not surprising that he persuaded them into cooperating with him.”

Business and politics might have nothing to do with each other.

Still, if Ian had information unfavorable t o Cloud Capital, the company’s top management could only cooperate with him.

Chapter 1488

Compared with the despicable tactics that Juan used i n the business circle, Ian’s close relationship with the higher-ups had already won him a lot of opportunities.

Kevin was relieved.

“Luckily, he’s not working with Mr.Saldana.”

Otherwise, Synergy would only become more aggressive.

After chatting for a short while, Kevin left.

Nolan poured a cup of tea slowly and calmly.

“So, is he taking over Synergy now?”

Quincy shook his head.

“No, Ian only took the shares but did not take over Synergy. He gave it to Mrs. Saldana.”

Nolan placed the teacup against his lower lip.

‘Ian gave Synergy to Mrs. Saldana. It seems he’s the one who informed Mrs. Saldana about the stolen money.

‘He didn’t make a move by himself, hid behind the curtains, diverted Juan’s attention, and used Mrs. Saldana to go against him. If Ian were to be my rival, then he’d be a difficult man to deal with”

At that moment, at Synergy...

Ian and Mrs. Saldana were sitting in the office drinking tea and talking to each other. She did not like the illegitimate child that her ex-husband had with his mistress.

After all, his mother gave birth to him to use his identity to get rid of her and Marco.

However, that was all in the past.

Mrs. Saldana held the teacup with her unchanged expression.

“I thought you dealt with your father only to acquire all the properties and assets under his name, but you gave Synergy to me.”

Ian gave off a faint smile.

“I’m not that interested in the Saldanas’ properties.”

“Oh, if your mother was half as sober as you back then, she wouldn’t have ended up like that.”

He lowered his gaze and said nothing.

His mother, Eunice, had wanted to secure her position in a wealthy family back then in order to change her status, so she gave birth to him without Juan knowing and brought him back to the Saldanas in an attempt to force Juan into accepting them.

However, Juan drove them out of the family in the end.

After that incident, Eunice had always despised Ian, thinking that everything was his fault and that he could not please his father and earn her a spot in the Saldanas.

A father had never brought up Ian since he was a child, and he had never received any motherly love from his mother.

Eunice would beat him up when she was in a bad mood and would only stop after beating him to a pulp.

She would even lock him in the closet and starve him for one whole day.

He also could not get the memories of her chasing him out of the house during winters off his mind. He once had had no shoes on, no coat, and had been left in the cold street—it had been so cold that he fainted for a while.

It was a kindhearted person who saved him.

From the moment he learned to be sensible until he was 12 years old, when every kid around him was about to graduate from elementary school, he had never even attended school, and he had done all kinds of dirty and tiring work.

Later on, when the police shut down the factory that employed children as its laborers, he was brought into the precinct.

However, Eunice did not even show up.

At that time, he also met the savior who changed my life, Michael Chase. He was Barbara's father and the deputy director of that particular precinct at the time.

Upon learning about his situation, Michael had asked him if he would like to follow him around in life.

And he had told him that he would do whatever it would take to be able to seize that opportunity.

It was also because of these words that Michael had seen the resolution in him and felt that he was a boy full of potential.

This was why he had chosen to bring him up and send him to school.

Ian managed to live up to his expectations in the end when he was admitted to the police academy.

His mother had not contacted him since then.

It was not until he graduated from the police academy and returned to his original home that he learned his mother had found herself another rich man and had long forgotten about her son.

When he joined the police as a detective, the first murder case he had taken over was his mother's.

His mother had died tragically in the apartment—the murderer had dismembered her.

All her body parts had been abandoned in different places in the city.

The murderer had not left behind any fingerprints and even avoided all the surveillance cameras when he chose the route to discard the body parts.

The local police had had a very difficult time solving the case, so they invited him over to help them out.

Chapter 1489

It had taken Ian two months only to find a clue because he knew his mother better than other police officers.

His mother had died because of her greed.

The same thing had repeated itself—she had used some despicable means to attain superiority, and it threatened the other party's interests.

That was how she had gotten killed.

Ian took a sip of tea unconcernedly.

“It’s all in the past.”

His mother’s death did not sadden him.

Even if it was mentioned again in his life, his heart had long gotten numb over this matter.

Mrs.Saldana stared at him.

After all, she was also a mother.

It was impossible for Ian not to have experienced distress throughout his childhood.

“It’s not your fault that you have such a mother.”

Ian paused for a bit, then laughed out loud.

‘Are you comforting me?’

“I’m not comforting you.I’ve always been an unbiased person when it comes to separating private matters from businesses.I won’t transfer the grudges that I have for your mother onto you.”

Mrs.Saldana said lightly, “Your mother would even use her own child to achieve what she wanted in her life.She’s not so different from Juan.I divorced Juan only because I saw through him clearly very early on in life.So, even if your mother were to have succeeded in securing her position as the new Mrs.Saldana, she wouldn’t have had a better life than I did either.”

Mrs.Saldana had always been confident due to her family background.

Meanwhile, Eunice had had nothing, so she could only rely on men and gain benefits through pleasing men.

Thus, even if she were to have succeeded in becoming the new Mrs.Saldana, it would not have lasted.

Juan had always been a person who only cared about the profit he could gain from everything in life.

As such, if a woman could not provide him with benefits, Juan would kick her away in a blink of an eye.

This was the truth.

Meanwhile...

Elaine had been sitting in Ian’s cafe for a short while.

The manager brewed a cup of coffee, brought it to her table, sat down in front of her, and grinned.

“Are you here to wait for Mr.Saldana?”

Elaine was astonished and explained with a smile, “No, I’ve come over only for a cup of coffee.”

She lowered her head and drank slowly.

In fact, she had insomnia last night.

As soon as she closed her eyes, the scene of Ian kissing her forehead would appear in her mind.

And she could still feel the warmth that came from his lips —it felt so hot that it seemed that they would ignite instantly if she were to touch them at that moment.

Every time she thought of it, a strange feeling would surge deep down, and her legs would feel wobbly and weak without her realizing it.

The manager did not notice anything unusual about her, so he laughed.

“Mr.Saldana has gone out.I guess he should’ve gone to Synergy.”

She returned to her senses.

“Is he going to take over the company?”

“That’s not it.If Mr.Saldana were interested in the company, he would’ve been sitting in the office long ago.”

“You seem to know him very well.”

“How could I not?”

The store manager then continued.

“Mr.Saldana isn’t interested in power or anything.Otherwise, why would he resign from the ministry? “

“He’s a person who likes to do things his own way.Take this cafe as an example.It started only because of his personal liking.It doesn’t matter to him if it makes him money or not.The important thing is that he likes it.”

Elaine chuckled.

“That’s not too bad.At least, he gets t o do what he likes.”

The manager’s gaze shifted away from her and looked at the person approaching them.

“Yo, Mr.Saldana, you’re back so soon?”

Elaine could not help but turn her head around.

Ian was dressed more formally than he used to, and the well-ironed suit made him look a lot more solemn.

His hair was styled as well.

His usual appearance looked rather mature and calm, but the overall look that he had on at this moment made him look sterner.

He stopped beside Elaine and glanced at the manager, who consciously got up and moved away from the table.

“I don’t thinkI should be third-wheeling here.I should go back to work already.”

Elaine returned to her senses subconsciously and looked away embarrassedly.

“Did you just go to Synergy?”

“I went there for a short chat.”

He smiled and then asked, “Do you want to come upstairs?”

Elaine was astounded for a while and then followed him upstairs with her cup of coffee in a confused manner.

Seeing that she was still holding the coffee, he laughed.

“I’ll make you another cup.”

Chapter 1490

“It’s okay. I don’t want to waste it,” said Elaine.

Ian walked into the office and immediately removed his jacket and tie as he never liked to wear formal clothes.

Elaine walked in behind him with her coffee and looked up to witness this scene.

The thin white shirt was pressed against his chest, so the outlines of his body could easily be seen as he breathed in and out.

She would say that Ian was the most well-built man she had ever met.

As expected of a man who had been an undercover agent for years, graduated from the police academy, and trained in the army for many years.

The last time she ran into him accidentally was when he was changing his clothes.

He looked muscular, but his build did not look very exaggerated.

The curvatures and lines of his muscles looked very firm and as hard as nails.

When working in her office, she often heard her female colleagues talking about men’s abs.

Most women loved men who had abs because they made them look sexy.

Elaine looked down subconsciously, thought of something all of a sudden, and instantly, her cheeks became very warm.

Thus, she quickly turned her face away. She admitted she was getting a little aroused, thinking of his body.

Ian draped his coat on the back of the couch, sat down alone, looked up, and saw her freeze in place.

“What’s the matter?” She recovered from the trance and felt inexplicably guilty when she met his gaze.

“No...It’s nothing.”

She lowered her head, walked to the couch next to the couch Ian was on, and sat down. She then drank the coffee in her hands, thought of something, and quickly changed the subject.

“Oh yeah, the cafe manager told me you didn’t take over Synergy.”

Ian laughed.

“I don’t like to run a company. I rarely even take care of the cafe.”

Elaine lowered her gaze.

“It’s good to be able to do what you like.”

“You can do so too.”

“Me?”

She paused for a split second, pursed her lips, and replied after a short while, “I only want to take over my father’s company, but he won’t let me.”

“When a woman wants to run a company, in addition to her brain and means, she must also know the sacrifices she has to make to survive in the circle, including her emotions. You’ve never experienced the cruel and darker side of the business field. It’s not unreasonable for your father to not want you to inherit Beyond Tech.”

In the business field, entrepreneurs would not care about someone else’s feelings — personal interests and profits were the only things they cared about.

No one would be willing to give selflessly.

Many people in the circle would abandon their original aspirations when profits were brought into the equation.

Not many people would be able to keep their original aspirations.

Those who could climb to the top of the pyramid depended, to a certain extent, on their families’ connections and backgrounds.

Otherwise, those who had to climb up the ladder from the bottom might need to give up more than they could obtain.

Elaine could inherit Beyond Tech with the connections and foothold that her father had accumulated over the years.

After all, she was the daughter of the company’s current owner.

But a woman would eventually get married, and Edward did not want her to inherit Beyond Tech only because he was worried she would give herself to blind emotions.

“According to what you just said, if I were to marry you and inherit the company in the future, should I be careful of you?” Ian froze for a moment before laughing out loud.

“Then what do you think of me?” She choked on her own words.

‘What he said makes sense too.’

‘He didn’t even take over Synergy, so why would he make Beyond Tech his target? It’s not that Ian is not interested in power. It’s just that he’s better aware of how society works than an average person.’

‘These things were merely world possessions. Many people in the world are racing with time in order to achieve success, compete with each other throughout a huge portion of their lives, and keep their eyes on everything every day just in case something were to happen.

They are the most tired people in the world.

‘We don’t need too much of everything. Having ample of the basics of life is good enough for most of us humans. After all, one can’t bring all these worldly possessions with them when they die. The best that we can do is to pass them down to others’

Her lips trembled slightly.

‘I know you’re not such a person.’ He smiled again.

‘Do you trust me this much?’

She was astonished for a split second and lowered her gaze.

‘I trust you based on my intuition.’ Ian laughed.

‘It’s no wonder Edward wouldn’t let you take over Beyond Tech.’

Elaine was rendered speechless.

‘You’re the one who made me believe in you.’